

Weekly Column for June 30, 2005

You may have seen this week that we had some special visitors in Troy from New York City.

On Tuesday afternoon I had a 90-minute discussion with Guardian Angels founder Curtis Sliwa about bringing his group into the City of Troy. As many of you know, recent crime dilemma\`s in other local municipalities have led to the Guardian Angels patrolling the streets. I have been resistant to patrols in Troy and I thought I would take a few paragraphs to tell you why.

By no means do I consider the City of Troy perfect when it comes to crime. However, we do not have the same problems other places are dealing with. In the last year, crime in the City of Troy is down 4.9 percent. Add that to the fact that crime was already lower than other major cities, and we are well ahead of the curve.

It is my sincere belief that by bringing the Guardian Angels into your city, you are feeding into a perception that the police department in that city cannot adequately do its job. Whether that is fair or not is not for me to decide, but it is a perception many people have. For years we have continued to fight for the safest possible streets we could have in Troy, while at the same time fighting our own awful perception that the streets were crime-ridden.

In my opinion, we are not in a position where we need the help of the Guardian Angels. I believe in our officers, and I believe in the Community Policing concept we continue to implement. We are making great strides, and are not going to rest on our laurels. We will continue to work to make the City of Troy as safe as possible.

If you would like to share your opinion with me about the Guardian Angels, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 270-4401 or shoot me an e-mail at [mayorsoffice@troyny.gov](mailto:mayorsoffice@troyny.gov)

On a less serious note this week, it is of course the Fourth of July weekend coming up, and we want everyone to exercise great caution in their celebrating. Whether you plan on a simple relaxing weekend, or a getaway to the ocean or beach, have fun and be careful. It should be a little cooler than it has been, and we are of course grateful for that. If you're looking for fireworks this weekend, the Tri-City Valley Cats will have a nice celebration on Friday night following the 7 p.m. game.

Have a safe and relaxing holiday weekend.

Harry J Tutunjian  
Mayor of Troy